

Message Text

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11
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /070 W
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R 050817Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3738
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USUN NEW YORK 782

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5458

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, AINR, TS
SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED MEETING

REF: TUNIS 4902, TUNIS 5257

1. DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY WEEKLY MAGAZINE DIALOGUE
PUBLISHED BRIEF ARTICLE ON AUGUST 1 REPORTING COMPOSI-
TION OF GOT DELEGATION TO NAM COLOMBO MEETING. DIALOGUE
SAID DELEGATION WOULD CONSIST OF FOREIGN MINISTER
HABIBI CHATTY, MAHMOUD MESTIRI, TAIEB SAHBANI, AHMED GHEZAL,
SALAH BOURGINI, RAHDIA GUERDAH, AND ANOUAR BERRAIES.
ARTICLE DID NOT MENTION MOHAMED RIZA, WHOM WE REPORTED
IN TUNIS 5257 AS A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION.

Z2. SALAH BOURGININ IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF
REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FA'S
DIRECTORATE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. HE IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND FOR COORDINATING
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZA-
TIONS, INCLUDING THE UNDP. HE ATTENDED THE NAIROBI
UNCTAD MEETINGS AND WAS HEAD OF THE TUNISIAN DELEGATION
FOR MUCH OF THE CONFERENCE. BOURGINI IS BEST DESCRIBED
AS "WORKING LEVEL" AND IS NOT A POLICY MAKER. HE HAS
BEEN FRIENDLY AND RECEPTIVE TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS

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IN TUNIS, BUT WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED REPORTS ON HIS ACTIVITIES

IN NAIROBI. HE SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH AND ARABIC AND AT LEAST READS ENGLISH.

3. RAHDIA BUERDAH (MAY ALSO BE SPELLED GORDAH) WAS LISTED BY DIALOGUE ONLY AS AN MFA EMPLOYEE, AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT HER PRESENT JOB IS. IN THE PAST SHE HAS SERVED AS A "FLOATER" IN THE MINISTRY AND HAS GAINED WIDE EXPERIENCE IN MANY JOBS BOTH IN THE MINISTRY AND ABROAD. AGE ABOUT 40, SHE IS THE BRIGHTER HALF OF A HUSBAND/WIFE FOREIGN SERVICE TEAM, WHO HAVE SPENT MANY YEARS IN MOSCOW AND WARSAW. INTELLIGENT AND KNOWLEDGEABLE, SHE IS ANIMATED AND ENTHUSIASTIC AND HAS STRONG OPINIONS. SHE HAS BEEN PERSONALLY FRIENDLY WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND HAS HAD MANY AMERICAN FRIENDS. NEVERTHELESS, SHE BELIEVES TUNISIA SHOULD ALIGN ITSELF MORE CLOSELY WITH OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. SHE HAS ALSO BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. FOR REDUCING ITS LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA. IN ADDITION TO NATIVE FRENCH AND ARABIC, MME GUERDAH SPEAKS POLISH, RUSSIAN, AND SOME ENGLISH.

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